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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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NED HOFFMAN

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20575

7590

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EXAMINER

EATON, KIMBERLY B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2161

DATE MAILED: 01/09/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/447,912

Applicant(s)

DANNEELS ET AL.

Examiner

Kimberly B Eaton

Art Unit

2161

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 November 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 November 1999 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other:

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Drawings*

1. The drawings are objected to because the left margins are not acceptable. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### *Specification*

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The text beginning on page 1, line 10 reads "this application is a continuation of US application serial number 09/244,784 filed February 5, 1999, now pending..." however in comparing the instant application to application serial number 09/244,784 it is apparent that the instant application is a continuation-in-part of application serial number 09/244,784, rather than a continuation of application serial number 09/244,784. Additionally, application serial number 09/244,784 is no longer pending and has issued as US Patent No. 6,012,039. Thus, the quoted text should read, "This application is a continuation-in-part of US application serial number 09/244,784, filed on February 5, 1999, now. US Patent No. 6,012,039..."
3. The text beginning on page 1, line 11 reads "...which is a continuation-in-part of US application serial number 07/705,399, filed on August 29, 1996 now US Patent No. 5,870,723..." however US Patent No. 5,870,723 corresponds to US application serial number 08/705,399. Thus the above quoted text should

read "...which is a continuation-in-part of US application serial number 08/705,399, filed on August 29, 1996 now US Patent No. 5,870,723.

4. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

6. A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-13 and 15-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kao et al. (US Patent No. 6,275,944) and further in view of Yu et al. (US Patent No. 6,182,076).

8. In re claim 1 Kao et al. shows in figures 1-10 and related text a user registration step wherein a user registers with an electronic identifier at least one registration sample (column 5, line 50 – column 5, line 65); the formation of a rule module customized to the user in a rule module clearinghouse, wherein at

least one pattern data of a user is associated with at least one execution command of the user (column 2, line 53 – column 2, line 56; column 5, line 18 - column 5, line 20); a user identification step, wherein the electronic indicator compares an identifying characteristic to a previously registered characteristic for producing either a successful or failed identification of the user (column 6, line 11 – column 6, line 42); a command execution step, wherein upon successful identification of the user at least one previously designated rule module of the user is invoked to execute at least one electronic transmission (column 2, line 56 – column 2, line 60).

9. Kao et al. fails to show a user registration step, wherein the user registers with an electronic identifier at least one registration sample where the registration sample is a biometric sample taken directly from the person of the user; wherein the user identification step, the electronic identifier compares the bid biometric sample taken directly from the person of the user with at least one previously registered biometric sample for producing either a successful or failed identification; and wherein a biometrically authorized electronic transmission conducted without the user presenting any personalized man-made memory tokens such as smartcards, or magnetic swipe cards.

10. Yu et al. shows in an analogous art related to a method of processing electronic transmissions, in figures 1-5 and related text, a user registration step, wherein a user registers with an electronic identifier at least one registration biometric sample taken directly from the person of the user (column 9, line 54 –

column 9, line 56); a user identification step, wherein the electronic identifier compares a bid biometric sample taken directly from the person of the user with at least one previously registered biometric sample for producing either a successful or failed identification (column 11, line 6 – column 11, line 12; column 11, line 13 – column 11, line 17); and a biometrically authorized electronic transmission conducted without the user presenting any personalized man-made memory tokens such as smartcards, or magnetic swipe cards.

11. Because passwords can be stolen or forgotten, a more secure method of user authentication is desirable. By incorporating the biometric registration step and identification step into the method of forming a customized rule module and command execution step, a higher level of security is achieved than can be achieved with a password. Additionally, conducting the biometric authorization without the use of any personalized man-made memory tokens eliminates the access problems that occur when the token is lost, stolen or damaged (See Yu, column 2, line 35 – column 2, line 46). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the user registration step, the user identification step and the tokenless biometric authorization of Kao et al. as taught in Yu et al. because passwords can be lost or stolen and a biometric registration offers a higher level of security.

12. In re claim 2 Kao et al. shows in figures 1-10 and related text the electronic rule module clearinghouse communicates with one or more third-party

computers (column 6, line 42 – column 6, line 49; column 7, line 24 – column 7, line 30; column 5, line 41 – column 5 – line 42).

13. In re claim 3 Kao et al. shows in figures 1-10 and related text any of the following: accessing stored electronic data customized to the user's rule modules, processing electronic data customized to the users rule modules, presentation of electronic data customized to the user's rue modules (column 4, line 28 – column 4, line 40; column 5, line 18 – column 5, line 20).
14. In re claim 4 Kao et al. shows in figures 1-10 and related text wherein the pattern data comprises any of the following; a user unique identification code, demographic information; an email address, a financial account, a secondary biometric, internet browsing patterns, a non-financial data repository account, a telephone number, a mailing address, purchase patterns, data on pre-paid accounts or memberships for products or services, electronic data usage patterns, employee status, job title, data on user behavior patterns, a digital certificate, a network credential, an internet protocol address, a digital signature, an encryption key, and instant messaging address, personal medical records, an electronic audio signature, an electronic visual signature (column 5, line 2 – column 5, line 7; column 5, line 18 – column 5, line 20).
15. In re claim 5 Kao et al. shows in figures 1-10 and related text pattern data for a user is provided for the rule module by any of he following; the user, the electronic rule module clearinghouse, or an authorized third party (column 3, line 7 – column 3, line 11; column 16, line 4 – column 16, line 6).

16. In re claim 6 Kao et al. shows in figures 1-10 and related text an execution command for a user is provided for the rule module by any of the following: the user, the electronic rule module clearinghouse, or an authorized third party (column 3, line 7 – column 3, line 11; column 16, line 4 – column 16, line 6).
17. In re claim 7 Kao substantially shows the invention as claimed but fails to show a user re-registration check step, wherein the user's registration biometric sample is compared against previously registered biometric samples wherein if a match occurs, the computer system is alerted to the fact that the user has attempted to re-register with the electronic identifier
18. Yu et al. shows in figures 1-5 and related text a user re-registration check step, wherein the user's registration biometric sample is compared against previously registered biometric samples wherein if a match occurs, the computer system is alerted to the fact that the user has attempted to re-register with the electronic identifier (column 10, line 6 – column 10, line 9).
19. In re claim 8 Yu et al. shows in figures 1-5 and related text any of the following: a fingerprint, a facial scan, a retinal image, an iris scan, and a voice print (column 7, line 25 – column 7, line 29).
20. In re claim 9 Kao et al. substantially shows the invention as claimed but fails to show during the identification step the user provides a personal identification code to the electronic identifier along with a bid biometric sample for the purposes of identifying the user.



21. Yu et al. shows in figures 1-5 and related text during the identification step the user provides a personal identification code to the electronic identifier along with a biometric sample for the purposes of identifying the user (column 10, line 45 – column 10, line 52; column 15, line 8 – column 15, line 9).
22. In re claim 10 Kao et al. substantially shows the invention as claimed but fails to show a biometric theft resolution step, wherein a user's personal identification code is changed when the user's biometric sample is determined to have been fraudulently duplicated.
23. Yu et al. shows in figures 1-5 and related text a biometric theft resolution step, wherein a user's personal identification code is changed when the user's biometric sample is determined to have been fraudulently duplicated (column 10, line 52 – column 10, line 54; column 11, line 49 – column 11, line 55).
24. In re claim 11 Kao et al. shows in figures 1-10 and related text execution of an execution command authorizes the user to access stored electronic data (column 4, line 27 – column 4, line 40).
25. In re claim 12 Kao et al. shows in figures 1-10 and related text accessing stored electronic data results in activation of an Internet-connected device (column 6, line 42 – column 6, line 49).
26. In re claim 13 Kao et al. shows in figures 1-10 and related text an execution command processes electronic data to provide the user with a requested electronic transmission (column 7, line 24 – column 7, line 30).

27. In re claim 15 Kao et al. shows in figures 1-10 and related text an execution command presents electronic data that is customized to the user's retested electronic transmission (column 5, line 18 – column 5, line 20; column 7, line 24 – column 7, line 30).
28. In re claim 16 Kao et al. substantially shows the invention as claimed but fails to show a user log-in repeat step, wherein during an electronic transmission the user is periodically required by the electronic identifier to present the user's bid biometric sample or at least one of the user's pattern data.
29. Yu et al. shows in figures 1-5 and related text a user log-in repeat step, wherein during an electronic transmission the user is periodically required by the electronic identifier to present the user's bid biometric sample or at least one of the user's pattern data (column 14, line 1 – column 14, line 11; column 14, line 24 – column 7, line 28).
30. In re claim 17 Kao et al. substantially shows the invention as claimed but fails to show a communications step wherein any if the following is used: the internet, an intranet, an extranet, a local area network, a wide area network.
31. Yu et al. shows in figures 1-5 and related text a communications step wherein any if the following is used: the internet, an intranet, an extranet, a local area network, a wide area network (column 4, line 52 – column 4, line 57; column 8, line 15 – column 8, line 17).
32. In re claim 18 Kao et al. shows in figures 1-10 and related text a third party registration step wherein a third-party registers identification data with the

electronic identifier, the identification data comprising any of the following; a biometric, a digital certificate, an Internet protocol address, or a biometric input apparatus hardware identification code (column 3, line 7 – column 3, line 11).

33. In re claim 19 Kao et al. shows in figures 1-10 and related text a third party identification step, wherein a third-party providing the user with electronic transmissions is identified by the electronic identifier by comparing the third-party's bid identification data with the third-party's registered identification data (column 3, line 7 – column 3, line 11).
34. In re claim 20 Kao et al. shows in figures 1-10 and related text the an electronic rule module clearinghouse, having at least one rule module further comprising at least one pattern data of a user associated with at least one execution command of the user, for executing at least one electronic transmission (column 2, line 53 – column 2, line 56; column 5, line 17 - column 5, line 20); a command execution module for invoking at least one previously designated execution command in the electronic rule module clearinghouse to execute an electronic transmission (column 2, line 56 – column 2, line 60).
35. Kao et al. fails to show a biometric input apparatus, for providing a bid or registration biometric sample of a user to the electronic identifier; wherein a user registers with an electronic identifier at least one registration biometric sample taken directly from the person of the user; an electronic identifier, for comparing the bid biometric sample with registered biometric samples of users; a

device wherein no man-made memory tokens such as smartcards, or magnetic swipe cards are presented by the user to conduct the electronic transmission.

36. Yu et al. shows in an analogous art related to a method of processing electronic transmissions, in figures 1-5 and related text, a biometric input apparatus, for providing a bid or registration biometric sample of a user to the electronic identifier (column 5, line 39 – column 5, line 40; column 6, line 23 – column 6, line 24); wherein a user registers with an electronic identifier at least one registration biometric sample taken directly from the person of the user (column 9, line 55 – column 9, line 56); an electronic identifier, for comparing the bid biometric sample with registered biometric samples of users (column 11, line 6 – column 11, line 12); a device wherein no man-made memory tokens such as smartcards, or magnetic swipe cards are presented by the user to conduct the electronic transmission.
37. In re claim 21 Kao et al. shows in figures 1-10 and related text the command module communicates with one or more third-party computers (column 6, line 42 – column 6, line 49; column 7, line 24 – column 7, line 30).
38. In re claim 22 Kao et al. shows in figures 1-10 and related text the pattern data comprises any of the following; a user unique identification code, demographic information, an email address, a financial account, a secondary biometric, a non-financial data repository account, a telephone number, a mailing address, purchasing patterns, data on pre-paid accounts or memberships for products or services, electronic data usage patterns, employee status, job title,

data on user behavior patterns, a digital certificate, a network credential, an Internet protocol address, a digital signature, an encryption key, an instant messaging address, personal medical records, and electronic audio signature, and an electronic visual signature (column 5, line 2 – column 5, line 7; column 5, line 18 – column 5, line 20).

39. In re claim 23 Kao et al shows in figures 1-10 and related text pattern data for the user is provided for the rule module by any of the following; the user, the electronic rule module clearinghouse, or an authorized third party (column 3, line 7 – column 3, line 11; column 16, line 4 – column 16, line 6).

40. In re claim 24 Kao et al. shows in figures 1-10 and related text an execution command for a user is provided for the rule module by any of the following; the user, the electronic rule module clearinghouse, or an authorized third party (column 3, line 7 – column 3, line 11; column 16, line 4 – column 16, line 6).

41. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kao et al. In view of Yu et al. as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of Gray (US patent No. 6,268,788).

42. In re claim 14 Kao et al. in view of Yu et al. substantially shows the invention as claimed but fails to show processing comprises invoking the following; a user's digital certificate, a user's identity scrambler, a user's interactive electronic consumer loyalty or consumer rewards program, a user's interactive electronic advertising, a user's interactive instant messaging program,

a user's email authentication, and an automated electronic intelligent agent for electronic data search and retrieval that is customized to the user's requested electronic transmission.

43. Gray shows in figures 1-14 and related text in an analogous art related to information security systems for use in a biometric system that exchanges biometric information of a user for access to a computer application, processing comprises invoking the following; a user's digital certificate, a user's identity scrambler, a user's interactive electronic consumer loyalty or consumer rewards program, a user's interactive electronic advertising, a user's interactive instant messaging program, a user's email authentication, and an automated electronic intelligent agent for electronic data search and retrieval that is customized to the user's requested electronic transmission (column 4, line 44– column 4, line 60). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the applications of Gray into the invention of Kao et al. in view of Yu et al. because the applications of Gary are well known in the art and are suitable for use in Kao et al. in view of Yu et al. and the selection of well known applications based on their suitability involves ordinary skill in the art.
44. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kao et al. in view of Yu et al., and further in view of Scott et al. (US patent No. 6,111,977).
45. In re claim 25 Kao et al. shows in figures 1-10 and related text a primary user registration step wherein a primary user registers with an electronic

identicator at least one registration biometric sample (column 5, line 50 – column 5, line 65); the formation of a rule module customized to the primary user in a rule module clearinghouse, wherein at least one pattern data of the primary user is associated with at least one execution command of the primary user (column 2, line 53 – column 2, line 56; column 5, line 18 - column 5, line 20); a user identification step, wherein the electronic indicator compares an identifying characteristic to a previously registered characteristic for producing either a successful or failed identification of the user (column 6, line 11 – column 6, line 42); a command execution step, wherein upon successful identification of the user at least one previously designated execution command of the user is invoked to execute at least one electronic transmission (column 2, line 56 – column 2, line 60).

46. Kao et al. fails to show a primary and subordinated user registration step, wherein the a primary and subordinated user each register with an electronic identicator at least one registration biometric sample taken directly from the person of the primary and subordinated user, respectively; formation of a rule module customized to the subordinated user in a rule module clearinghouse, wherein at least on pattern data of the primary and subordinated user is associated with at least one execution command of the primary and subordinated user; a subordinated user identification step, wherein the electronic identicator compares a bid biometric sample taken directly from the person of the subordinated user with at least one previously registered biometric sample for

producing either a successful or failed identification of the subordinated user; a subordination step wherein upon successful identification of the subordinated user, the pattern data of the subordinated user is searched to determine if any of the subordinated user's rule modules is subordinated to at least one of the primary user's rule modules; a command execution step, wherein upon the successful identification of the subordinated user and the determination that at least one of the subordinated user's rule modules is subordinated to at least one of the primary user's rule modules, at least one previously designated execution command of the user is invoked to execute at least one electronic transmission; wherein a biometrically authorized electronic transmission conducted without the user presenting any personalized man-made memory tokens such as smartcards, or magnetic swipe cards.

47. Yu et al. shows in an analogous art related to a method of processing electronic transmissions, in figures 1-5 and related text, a user registration step, wherein a user registers with an electronic identifier at least one registration biometric sample taken directly from the person of the user (column 9, line 54 – column 9, line 56); a user identification step, wherein the electronic identifier compares a bid biometric sample taken directly from the person of the user with at least one previously registered biometric sample for producing either a successful or failed identification (column 11, line 6 – column 11, line 12; column 11, line 13 – column 11, line 17); and a biometrically authorized electronic



transmission conducted without the user presenting any personalized man-made memory tokens such as smartcards, or magnetic swipe cards.

48. Because passwords can be stolen or forgotten, a more secure method of user authentication is desirable. By incorporating the biometric registration step and identification step into the method of forming a customized rule module and command execution step, a higher level of security is achieved than can be achieved with a password. Additionally, conducting the biometric authorization without the use of any personalized man-made memory tokens eliminates the access problems that occur when the token is lost, stolen or damaged (See Yu, column 2, line 35 – column 2, line 46). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the user registration step, the user identification step and the tokenless biometric authorization of Kao et al. as taught in Yu et al. because passwords can be lost or stolen and a biometric registration offers a higher level of security.
49. Kao et al. In view of Yu et al. still does not show a subordinated user registration step, wherein the subordinated user registers with an electronic identifier at least one registration biometric sample taken directly from the person of the subordinated user; formation of a rule module customized to the subordinated user in a rule module clearinghouse, wherein at least one pattern data of the primary and subordinated user is associated with at least one execution command of the primary and subordinated user; a subordinated user identification step, wherein the electronic identifier compares a bid biometric

sample taken directly from the person of the subordinated user with at least one previously registered biometric sample for producing either a successful or failed identification of the subordinated user; a subordination step wherein upon successful identification of the subordinated user, the pattern data of the subordinated user is searched to determine if any of the subordinated user's rule modules is subordinated to at least one of the primary user's rule modules; a command execution step, wherein upon the successful identification of the subordinated user and the determination that at least one of the subordinated user's rule modules is subordinated to at least one of the primary user's rule modules, at least one previously designated execution command of the user is invoked to execute at least one electronic transmission.

50. Scott et al. (US Patent No. 6,111,977) shows in figures 1-2 and related text in an analogous art related to a biometric locking mechanism a subordinated user registration step, wherein the subordinated user registers with an electronic identifier at least one registration biometric sample taken directly from the person of the subordinated user (column 2, line 40 – column 2, line 59); formation of a rule module customized to the subordinated user in a rule module clearinghouse, wherein at least one pattern data of the primary and subordinated user is associated with at least one execution command of the primary and subordinated user (column 2, line 40 – column 2, line 59); a subordinated user identification step, wherein the electronic identifier compares a bid biometric sample taken directly from the person of the subordinated user with at least one

previously registered biometric sample for producing either a successful or failed identification of the subordinated user; a subordination step wherein upon successful identification of the subordinated user, the pattern data of the subordinated user is searched to determine if any of the subordinated user's rule modules is subordinated to at least one of the primary user's rule modules (column 2, line 40 – column 2, line 59); a command execution step, wherein upon the successful identification of the subordinated user and the determination that at least one of the subordinated user's rule modules is subordinated to at least one of the primary user's rule modules, at least one previously designated execution command of the user is invoked to execute at least one electronic transmission (column 2, line 40 – column 2, line 59).

51. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the subordinated user of Scott et al. into the invention of Kao et al. in view of Yu et al. because a primary user often needs to extend access privileges to a secondary user such as a child or family member (see Scott et al, column 2, line 40 – column 2, line 59).

52. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly B Eaton whose telephone number is 703-305-3229. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:00 am – 6:00 pm EST.

53. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703-305-9768.

54. The Fax phone number for the UNOFFICIAL FAX for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-7240 (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT").
55. The Fax phone number for the OFFICIAL FAX for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-7239 (for formal communications intended for entry).
56. The Fax phone number for AFTER-FINAL communications where this application or proceeding is assigned in (703) 746-7238.
57. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

  
JAMES P. TRAMMELL  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

**Attachment for PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier)**  
**6/18/01**

**The below text replaces the pre-printed text under the heading, "Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes," on the back of the PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier) form.**

**INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES**

**1. Correction of Informalities -- 37 CFR 1.85**

New corrected drawings must be filed with the changes **incorporated** therein. Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin. If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37), the new drawings **MUST** be filed within the **THREE MONTH** shortened statutory period set for reply in the Notice of Allowability. Extensions of time may **NOT** be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b) for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

**2. Corrections other than Informalities Noted by Draftsperson on form PTO-948.**

All changes to the drawings, other than informalities noted by the Draftsperson, **MUST** be made in the same manner as above except that, normally, a highlighted (preferably red ink) sketch of the changes to be incorporated into the new drawings **MUST** be approved by the examiner before the application will be allowed. No changes will be permitted to be made, other than correction of informalities, unless the examiner has approved the proposed changes.

**Timing of Corrections**

Applicant is required to submit the drawing corrections within the time period set in the attached Office communication. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application.